MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

Union Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Pine Bluff Church,

Copiah County, Miss.,

AUGUST 26TH, 27TH AND 28TH, 1876.

OFFICERS:

D. I. PURSER.....MODERATOR.
A. J. MILLER.....CLERK.
C. J. GREEN.....TREASURER.

Time and Place of next Meeting, Beech Grove Church, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1877.

MEMPHIS TENN.
SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY PRINT. 361 MAIN ST.
1876.

UNION A

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MINUTES.

PINE BLUFF CHURCH, COPIAH CO., MISS.,
August 26, 1876.

UNION ASSOCIATION met pursuant to adjournment.

Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Joseph J. Green. Text: "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Psalm 126 : 3.

The congregation was then dismissed for an hour, after which, re-assembled in the house.

The Moderator, Elder D. I. Purser, then called the Association to order, and after reading a selection of Scripture, the congregation was led in prayer by Bro. A. R. Lum.

Brethren A. J. Maxey and E. W. Brown were appointed reading clerks.

After the reading of letters, and enrolling names of delegates, the body went into the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:

Elder D. I. Purser, Moderator; Elder A. J. Miller, Clerk; and Bro. C. J. Green, Treasurer.

After a few appropriate remarks by Bro. Purser, the congregation again united in prayer with Bro. Jasper Green. The Association was then declared ready for business.

On motion, the same order of business was adopted as that heretofore used, which is as follows:

1. Receive petitions, and call for correspondence.
2. Call for reports.
3. Appoint committees.
4. Appoint messengers to corresponding bodies.
5. Hear reports.
6. Adopt letters of correspondence.
7. Appoint time and place for next meeting.
8. Adopt resolutions.

9. Call roll, read minutes and adjourn.

Called for petitionary letters.

Received upon presentation of letter, Gallman Church into full fellowship with us.

Called for correspondence—none.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended, and a Committee on Devotional Exrcises was appointed, consisting of the following brethren: The pastor and deacons of this church, B. Higdon and Geo. W. Foster.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

Committee on Finance—William M. Haley, T. J. Lawrence, B. Higdon.

Ministerial Education—J. Jasper Green, W. J. Bailes, J. H. Purser.

Home Missions—W. J. Scott, J. E. Chiles, W. F. Renfrow.

Sunday Schools—R. H. Purser, G. W. Rotch, Elbert Gates.

Foreign Missions—William Sumrall, A. R. Lum, A. C. Till.

Mississippi College—W. F. Davis, H. H. Segrist, A. J. Hodges.

Publications—W. F. Green, T. R. Whitehead, W. W. Miller.

Nominations—J. A. Snyder, A. J. Maxey, E. W. Brown.

Centennial Committee of Union Assaciation—Elders D. J. Purser, J. Jasper Green, R. H. Purser and A. A. Lomax.

On motion, a Committee was appointed on Obituaries, consisting of the following brethren: J. A. Snyder, Stephen Vanvorus, C. J. Green.

On motion, the Moderator and W. F. Green were added to this Committee.

A partial report of the Committee on Devotional Exercises was adopted, which provided for preaching on Sabbath at 11 o'clock by Elder A. J. Miller.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To Mississippi Association—T. R. Whitehead, W. P. Deilman and Samuel Morris.

Strong River—W. W. Miller, G. W. Rotch, A. J. Miller, R. H. Purser, N. Morris, D. I. Purser, T. H. Dodds, J. Jasper Green, W. F. Green and William M. Haley.

Pearl River—W. W. Miller, A. R. Granberry J. H. Purser, N. Morris, J. R. Fortenberry and D. I. Purser.

Central—A. J. Miller, J. Jasper Green, R. H. Purser, D. I. Purser, W. J. Scott, G. Cagle, William M. Haley and I. M. Wise.

Miss. Baptist State Convention—R. H. Purser, A. J. Miller, A. A. Lomax, Jasper Green, William Sumrall, C. J. Green, W. W. Miller and J. A. Snyder.

Fair River—William Sumrall, N. Morris, A. A. Lomax, G. Cagle and T. J. Lawrence.

On motion, leave of absence was granted to brethren Samuel Morris and E. W. Brown.

On motion, adjourned to meet at 9½ o'clock, Monday morning.

After singing and a closing prayer by Bro. Foster, the congregation was dismissed.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

On Sabbath morning at 11 o'clock, the Missionary Sermon was preached by Elder A. J. Miller. Text: "The glorious gospel of Christ." II Corinthians, 4 : 4.

At the conclusion of the sermon, Elder T. J. Walne, Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board, was introduced, and after making a few remarks relative to mission work in the State, asked for a cash contribution and received $14.95. The congregation was then dismissed for an hour.

SABBATH EVENING, 2½ O'CLOCK.

The congregation was called to-gether by singing, after which had preaching by Elder R. N. Hall, Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Ministerial Education. Text, Matt. 5 : 14 : "Ye are the light of the world."

Closing prayer by Bro. Head.

Congregation both morning and evening very large, and as attentive as could have been expected—the weather was very warm.

MONDAY MORNING, 9½ O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing, reading of Scripture, and an opening prayer by Bro. W. F. Green, the body was declared ready for business.

Several brethren having come in on Sabbath, on motion, all visiting brethren were invited to seats.

Bro. R. N. Hall was received as Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Ministerial Education; Bro. T. J. Walne as Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board; Bro. M. T. Martin as Agent for Mississippi College. Bro. Lomax having arrived, was addedas a delegate from Hazlehurst Church.

On motion, Bro. L. L. Brittain was recognized as a delegate from Hazlehurst Church, to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of Bro. E. W. Brown.

Bro. Brittain was appointed by the Moderator to act on the Finance Committee in place of Bro. William M. Haley, who was absent.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions read and adopted. —(A)

Report of Committee on Mississippi College read, and after a speech by Bro. Lomax and a very pointed one by Bro. Martin, the Agent, who was very much discouraged in the effort—having received nothing of any consequence for the College—was adopted.—(B)

Report of Committee on Ministerial Education read and adopted.—(C)

Pending the adoption of this report, Bro. Hall very briefly and queitly presented the claims of the Board, but asked for no pledges publicly; during the intermission, however, he was at work, and raised from the sisters, and a few of the brethren, about $140. He wishes to find one thousand ladies in the State who will give the Board $1.00 per year.

Report of Committee on Home Missions read, and after a motion to adopt, Bro. Walne made a complete and satisfactory explanation relative to the co-operation of Associational

Executive Boards with the State Board, and showed that though we may have needed a missionary in our bounds, the Executive Board had never applied for one.

On motion, the above report was re-committed with instructions to present one in harmony with the present co-operative system.

On motion, adjourned for one hour and a half.

MONDAY ENENING, 2½ O'CLOCK.

The Association met and was opened with prayer by Bro. Jasper Green.

Reports continued. Report of Committee on Publications read and adopted without discussion.—(E)

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools read and adopted. —(F)

On motion, the Clerk was requested to write and have published in the minutes a letter of general correspondence.

On motion, any member of this body being present with any body with which we correspond, may be recognized as a corresponding messenger.

TIME AND PLACE FOR NEXT MEETING.

Beech Grove Church, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1877. [See resolution with reference to change of time.]

On motion, leave of absence was granted Bro. W. W. Miller.

The Centennial Committee requested further time in order to complete the report, which, on motion, was granted.

Report of Committee on Finance read and adopted.(G)

The former missionaries of the Association, Elders D. I. and R. H. Purser, very generously made a donation of all amounts due them to the Association. It appeared that the body was justly indebted to them for services rendered as missionaries, over one hundred dollars.

Report of Committee on Home Missions was again presented, and after several short speeches, there was a motion to amend by striking out the last sentence, which prevailed.

Just before the vote was taken on the adoption, on motion, the report of last year was substituted for the one under discussion.—(D)

Report of Committee on Nominations read and adopted. —(H)

Report of Committee on Obituaries read and adopted. —(I)

On motion, the Clerk was requested to have printed an abstract of letters.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

On motion, resolved.

WHEREAS, We deem it very essential to the prosperity of Zion and the glory of God, that those of our number who may feel that they are called to the work of the Gospel Ministry, possess all the qualifications necessary for the work, therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That sound piety and a character every way unimpeachable is necessary to claim a good report from those who are without.

Resolved, 2nd. That those churches that may have any one in their midst looking to the work, be requested to examine well the qualification as to piety before recognizing such a call.

On motion, resolved:

WHEREAS, There are various inconsistencies being daily exhibited by many of our church members, prominent among which is that wordly amusement known as the social dance.

WHEREAS, Such conformities to the world are materially injurious to the cause of Christ, in that they tend to paralyze the churches and erase the line which separates the church from the world; therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this body that those professing to be Christians who persist in practicing the sinful amusement above mentioned, are heaping reproach upon the cause of our Master, dishonoring their profession, and are therefore unworthy the name of Christian, and should not be retained as church members.

On motion, resolved:

WHEREAS, We have learned of the act of Elder J. L. Burrows of Kentucky, in communing with the Campbellites, and,

WHEREAS, We believe that in so doing he is guilty of great inconsistency; that such conduct is subversive of gospel order, and introduces discord among our churches, therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That we do sincerely regret said action of our brother, and that we do most solemnly protest against the same.

Resolved, 2nd. That this act of our brother, (and all similar acts) is the legitimate offspring of alien immersions and pulpit affiliations.

Resolved, 3rd. That we do not think this preamble and resolutions would be complete without our positive and avowed objection to the

teachings of the "Religious Herald" (a paper published in Richmond, Va.) on the subject of alein immersion and pulpit affiliation.

On motion, resolved:

In view of the inconveniencies that attend the meeting of this Association in August,

Resolved, That we meet one month later.

On motion,

Resolved, Whereas, we are accountable to God for our stewardship while we journey in the earth, and that He will hold us personally responsible for the improvement of the talents entrusted to our care, therefore be it

Resolved, 1st. That *all* the churches composing this body are hereby *earnestly* solicited to keep a *financial* record both of cash and vouchers.

Resolved, 2nd. That each church be recommended to make it obligatory upon her deacons to take due notice of all financial transactions of the church and report the same to the clerk.

Resolved, 3rd. That the clerks be requested to keep a correct record of all reports thus made to them, and in making out the Associational letter forward the financial statistics of the churches to this body.

Resolved, 4th. That the Clerk of this Association be requested to make a report of the financial aggregate to the Clerk of the State Convention.

[NOTE.—I hope the churches will take *due* notice of the above and govern themselves accordingly.—CLERK.]

On motion,

Resolved, That the Clerk attend to the printing and distribution of the minutes; that he be allowed the sum of $25.00 for his services and that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the same.

On motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the members of this church and the surrounding community for the very hospitable manner in which they have entertained us during this session of the Association.

On motion, all money remaining in the Treasury after paying the Associational expenses, is to be turned over to the Executive Board of the Association.

On motion, adjourned to meet at Beech Grove Church, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1877.

After singing the hymn, "Am I a soldier of the Cross," etc., and taking the parting hand, Bro. Walne offered the closing prayer. The congregation was then dismissed by Bro. W. F. Green. Thus closed another pleasant and harmonious meeting of the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

A. J. MILLER, Clerk.

D. I. PURSER, Moderator.

NOTE.—Just previous to the adjournment of the Association, Prof. Martin was granted permission to state that he was considerably encouraged in his work, as he had by earnest work during the intermission, taken notes (including those taken in the morning) to the amount of $1,200. This, added to the amount taken at the Convention from a member of our body, makes $1,450 from UNION ASSOCIATION upon the new plan.

(A)

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The word missionary means, one sent and in this sense Jesus Christ was God's great missionary to this world. And Jesus said to his disciples, as the Father has sent me into this world, so send I you into the world; therefore all of his disciples are missionaries. As the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost, so his disciples are sent forth into all the world to seek and to save the lost. We believe that it is the duty of every disciple to preach, either directly or indirectly, the gospel to every creature and we believe this duty was imposed upon us by Jesus Christ to whom we are personally reponsible; and feeling that this duty is fearfully neglected by many we earnestly recommend that every pastor and minister within our bounds preach at least once during the year, to their respective churches upon the subject of Foreign Missions and take up a collection and forward whatever amount collected to the Board of Foreign Missions at Richmond, Va., or to our own Treasurer, and that each church report the amount at our next meeting.

WM. SUMRALL, Chairman of Committee.

(B)

REPORT ON MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

Your Committee on Mississippi College respectfully submits the following report:

Information received from reliable sources justifies us in saying that with reference to the internal workings of the institution, standard of scholarship, discipline, moral influence, &c, our college is all that we could expect, or even wish. We have a school of which we may well feel proud Its influence for good is now being felt in the land, and with the necessary encouragement from our people it will stand unrivaled, in the future. But from the last report of the Board of Trustees we learn that the income at present is not sufficient to sustain the college. The question then arises, to what source can she look for aid? We answer, to Baptists—to us. The college is ours and we must sustain it. We say then let not the appeals of Mississippi college be made in vain to our people. Let us show our appreciation of the grand work she is doing by furnishing her with the means neccessary to make her an institution that will reflect honor upon our people and that will enable her to prosecute successfully her glorious mission.

W. F. DAVIS, Chairman.

(C.)

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education would beg leave to submit the following report:

The subject of education is one that is fast engaging the public mind. Its importance is being more keenly felt each succeeding year; and from the center to the circumference of our country the cry is going out, "We must educate!" We know that knowledge unsanctified by piety is a power for evil, hence it is necessary that the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ should keep pace with this rapid growth of knowledge. Ministers are expected to be leaders and teachers of the people. The cause of Christ will always suffer when they do not lead and teach their respective flocks. This forces upon us the necessity of educating our ministers or we will have the blind leading those who can see. God does not call many of the wise and rich into the ministry; but on the other hand he seems to delight in calling poor men to preach His gospel. This fact forces upon us the necessity of the great work undertaken by our State Convention through its Board of Ministerial Education. These being our views we submit the following resolutions for the consideration of the Association, viz:

Resolved, 1st. That we heartily co-operate with the Board of Ministerial Education in its work of educating men who are called of God to preach.

Resolved, 2d. That we cordially invite Eld. R. N. Hall the Corresponding Secretary of the Board, to visit our churches and raise funds for this work.

Resolved, 3 That we recommend Mississippi college to our young ministers as the best school of instruction, and as affording more facilities to acquire a liberal education than any institution they can attend.

J. JASPER GREEN, Ch'm

(D.)

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee has nothing special to report. There is still a great destitution in our land. The cry still comes from various quarters "send us the gospel."

We would urge that some steps be taken to secure that end. We would recommend that the pastors of our churches cease not their energies until the members of their respective churches are thoroughly aroused to the importance of this subject.

We would also recommend the continuance of the Missionary and Executive Boards, and that all our mission work be effected through the State Board. Respectfully submitted,

W. J. SCOTT, Chairman.

(E.)

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee on Publications would report as follows:

We appreciate the benefit of a sound religious literature in the formation of Christian character Unhealthy food taken into the system begets diseases of every description, so does the imbibing of false ideas of Christianity beget error in doctrines, of every conceivable kind.

Believing that the Southern Baptist Publication Society sends forth from its rooms nothing but pure Baptist literature, we unhesitatingly recommend it to our people as worthy of their approval and patronage. We regret the action of our last Convention in giving up our department in the Baptist. We learn that a committee was appointed to set on foot a paper, to be our denominational organ in the State. Until this committee shall take some satisfactory action in the premises we recommend the that our people continue to take "The Baptist," as Bro. Graves has kindly consented to give us space in the paper to communicate one with another.

We also recommend our Sunday School paper, "Kind Words," as in every way worthy of our patronage; and we would suggest, that an effort be made to put it in every family. Submitted,

W. F. GREEN, Ch'm.

(F.)

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools would submit the following:

Very few of our churches report interesting schools, and we are sad to say that there seems to be a want of interest on this important subject. The work seems to be languishing in our Association.

Brethren, shall these things continue to be so? It ought not so to be. Then if the Sunday School work is a good one, (and it certainly is) shall we not do more during the coming year for the Master in leading the young along the paths of truth as best we may, and pray more earnestly that the Holy Spirit might so impress their hearts that they, with us, might learn to love Jesus. We would therefore urge it upon all Sunday School workers that they meet with and assist us in making our Sunday School Convention a success, and thereby awaken in our own hearts a deeper intereet in the work.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. PURSER, Ch'n.

(G.)

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee respectfully report that they have received and turned over to C. J. Green, Teeasurer, the following amounts, to-wit:

CHURCHES.	PURPOSES FOR WHICH GIV'N	AM'TS.	OBJECTS FOR WHICH GIVEN.	AM'TS.	
Antioch, Copiah Co...			Associational Purposes...	5 50	
Antioch, Franklin Co			" "	2 00	
Bethany.....			" "	5 00	
Bethlehem.....	Centennial Fund.....	10 00	" "	3 60	
Brushy Fork.....			" "	5 00	
Beech Grove.....			" "	1 55	
Damascus, Copiah Co			" "	10 80	
Fellowship			" "	6 40	
Hazlehurst.....			" "	6 75	
New Hope.....			" "	3 25	
New Zion.....			" "	6 75	
New Providence.....			" "	5 00	
Philadelphia			" "	3 75	
Pine Bluff..	Centennial Fund.....	9 00	" "	7 50	
Port Gibson.....			" "	3 30	
Spring Hill			" "	4 00	
White Oak.....			" "	5 45	
Bethesda			" "	2 50	
Gallman.....			" "	3 50	
Union Assoia'n tor Missions, Sunday Collection.					14 95
Totals.....		19 00		91 60	14 95

RECAPITULATION.

Amount for Associational Purposes	$ 91 60
" " Centennial Fund,	19 00
" " Missions	14 95
Total.....	$125 55

Respectfully submitted,

L. L. BRITTAIN, Chairman.

(H.)

MOMINATIONS—EXECUTIVE BOARD.

L. L. Brittain, A. R. Granberry, A. A. Lomax, L. F. Birdsong, together with the officers of this Association.

Bro. R. H. Purser to preach the next introductory sermon.

J. A. SNYDER, Ch'm.

(I)

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

The workmen die, but the Master carries forward His work. Since our last meeting Bro. E. N. Sumrall, a faithful worker and zealous member of the New Zion church, Copiah Co., has ceased from his labors. He was a Baptist for many years, and for the last fifteen years (with the exception of one during the war), he served as Treasurer of this Association. As a friend, a husband and a father, his name will ever be held sacred by those with whom he associated. His house was emphatically the weary brothers home, many of whom, when they read this report, will recall the kind hospitality enjoyed under his roof. The remembrance of his kindly deeds will ever be cherished in the hearts of his neighbors.

As a christian, from his earliest connection with the church, he proved himself one of Christ's most faithful followers, and was regarded as a model of piety, remarkable for his strict adherence to the doctrines and interests of the church. He was one of the most earnest, efficient Sunday School workers that we had in the Association. Possessing the ability and the will, he was pre-eminently qualified for the delicate and responsible position that the Association conferred upon him, in which position he won the unbounded confidence of his brethren. His death has created a vacancy among the officers of this Body which will be exceedingly difficult to fill. Blessed are the servants whom the Lord, when He cometh, shall find watching.

We would also notice the death of Sister S. R. Sumrall, who departed this life at an advanced age. She had long been a consistent member of the Baptist church, and died in the full triumph of the christian faith.

God in his providence has removed from His vineyard many other efficient laborers. The Master called, and they have gone up higher to receive their reward.

J. A. SNYDER, Ch'm.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. R. Farish, Hazlehurst, Copiah Co., Miss.
W. F. Green, Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Miss.
J. J. Green, Sr., Pine Bluff, Copiah County, Miss.
J. J. Green, Jr., Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Miss.
A. R. Lum, Union Church, Jefferson County, Miss.
A. A. Lomax, Hazlehurst, Copiah County. Miss.
W. H. Head, Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Miss.
Samuel Morris, Union Church, Jefferson County, Miss.
Nathan Morris, Pine Bluff, Copiah, County, Miss.
A. J. Miller, Vicksburg, Warren County, Miss.
D. I. Purser, Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Miss.
R. H. Purser, Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Miss
J. A. Snyder, Clinton, Hinds County, Miss.

LICENTIATES.

W. C. Johnson, Port Gibson, Claiborne Co., Miss.
W. J. Scott, Crystal Springs, Copiah Co., Miss.
E. C. Gates, Morgan's Fork, Franklin Co, Miss.
Wm. Sumrall, Crystal Springs, Copiah Co, Miss.

LETTER OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The Union Baptist Association to corresponding bodies, sendeth Christian salutation:

DEAR BRETHREN:—Under the providence of Him who ever careth for His people, we were permitted to hold our Fifty-Sixth Annual Session with the Pine Bluff Church, Copiah County. In this, our annual communication, we have but little of an encouraging nature to report. A

large majority of our churches were well represented by delegation; some of these had enjoyed precious revivals, and souls had been made glad by believing in Christ; but others, several others, came to us with sad reports —no revivals and no conversions. We have many things to regret, yea to make our hearts sad. Among these may be mentioned the *comparative* failure of the Centennial effort; but our hearts might grow light and buoyant under this were it not for things to be more lamented. By a minute's reflection we find that our Association has fallen far short of its duty with reference to the great work of missions The Home, as well as the Foreign field, has been sadly neglected. Who, we ask, is the guilty party? If the stone is thrown at the pastors, it rebounds upon the people. We are *all* guilty, having neglected our Master's work in various ways, and especially by turning a deaf ear to the piteous cries for help for the gospel.

Notwithstanding all our negligence and indifference during the past, we hope, dear brethren, to awake from our slumbers and labor for the dawn of a brighter day—that day when we can sing, "The clouds are all breaking away," and be happy in a faithful performance of our various Christian duties.

We desire to continue our correspondence with you and send this, our letter, by our messengers. Our next Annual Session will be held with Beech Grove Church, Claiborne Co., Miss., on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1877.

May the Great Head of the Church ever direct you in all your deliberations.

A. J. MILLER, Cl'k.

ABSTRACT OF LETTERS.

CHURCHES.	STATE OF RELIGION.	NAMES OF PASTORS	NAMES OF CLERKS.
Antioch	Encouraged	R. H Purser	B. B. Day
Antioch	Without pastor and house		C. C. Prichard
Bethesda	Encouraged	S. Morris	J. A. McBride
Beech Grove	At peace	J J. Green, Sr.	J. D. Fairley
Bethany.	In a cold state. No pastor		Lot Smith
Bethlehem	At peace, and revived	A. Trevillion	D W Cunningham
Brushy Fork	In a lukewarm condition	J. J. Green, Jr.	T. G. Richmond
Clear Creek,	Not heard from		
Damascus	Flourishing	Jesse Woodall	W. W. Miller.
Damascus	Supposed to be dead		
Fellowship,	In a hopeful condition	I.M.Wise,supply.	Silas H. Coleman
Galiman	Not in a prosperous condition	W. H. Head	J. Willis
Hazlehurst	At peace, but not much progress	A. A. Lomax	C. M. Bankston
New Hope	In a living condition	J. J. Green, Jr.	I. R. Martin
New Providence	Much revived	J. J. Green, Jr.	F. M. Davis
New Zion	Peace and harmony prevails	D. I. Purser	Z. J. Scott
Philadelphia,	Some degree of prosperity	J. J. Green, Jr.	J. L. Auding
Piedmont	Struggling for life		
Pine Bluff	No special interest	R. H. Purser.	A. J Hodges.
Pleasant Hill	Not represented		
Port Gibson	In a cold state	D. I. Purser	W. B. Thompson
Rodney	Without representation		
Spring Hill	In good working condition	D. I. Purser	W. F. Renfrow
Salem	Not represented		
White Oak	Nothing encoursging	J. J. Green. Sr.	W. L. Cooper

For amount of contribution from each church, see the Report of Finance Committee.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized	Received by letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Males	Females	Total	No. Minutes	Sabbath Meeting
Antioch	Copiah	Hazlehurst	Young Robinson	12	2	...	9	...	1	35	56	91	30	4th
Antioch	Franklin	Morgan's Fork	E. C Gates	...	...	...	8	10	...	9	26	35	10	3d
Bethany	Claiborne	Linden	H. H. Segrist, S. VanVorus, Isaac Daniels	1	...	...	4	2	...	38	52	90	30	1st
Bethesda	Jefferson	Union Church	Samuel Morris	1	2	2	7	3	1	21	27	48	12	2d & 4th
Bethlehem	Franklin	Morgan's Fork	T. R Whitehead, W. P Dielman	7	4	...	...	...	...	23	34	57	15	3d
Brushy Fork	Copiah	Linden	W. J. Bailes, John Bailes	...	...	...	2	2	2	29	35	64	20	3d
Beech Grove	Claiborne	Port Gibson	A R. Lum	2	1	...	1	2	...	21	40	61	20	4th
*Clear Creek	Adams	Washington		...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	11	...	...
Damascus	Copiah	Hazlehurst	R. H. Purser, A J. Miller, W. W. Miller, B. Higdon, W. M. Haley, Wm Robertson	11	13	1	3	3	3	95	159	254	70	1st
*Damascus	Jefferson	Rodney		...	...	...	...	...	...	9	7	16	...	...
Fellowship	Jefferson	Rodney		...	...	...	...	...	...	22	35	57	30	1st & 3d
Gallman	Copiah	Gallman	G. W. Foster, W. G. Marble, I. M. Wise	10	...	...	...	...	...	26	39	65	30	...
Hazlehurst	Copiah	Hazlehurst	Wm. Sumrall, B F. Tillman, G. B. Williams	...	16	...	6	2	1	63	33	96	50	2d & 4th
New Hope	Copiah	Hazlehurst	W. F. Green, E. W. Brown, L. L. Brittain, A. A. Lomax	...	2	1	5	2	...	10	20	30	12	1st
New Zion	Copiah	Crystal Springs	G. W. Rotch J. Jasper Green, J. H. Purser	6	4	...	9	5	4	50	80	130	50	2d
New Providence	Copiah	Caseyville	C. J. Green, W. J. Scott, T. J. Lawrence	8	6	7	...	...	1	34	55	89	15	4th
Philadelphia	Lincoln	Caseyville	W. F. Davis	...	4	...	3	...	2	23	28	51	15	2d
*Piedmont	Jefferson	Union Church	J. E. Childs, J. A. Snyder	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	11	14	...	...
Pine Bluff	Copiah	Hazlehuast		...	3	...	2	3	...	48	99	147	50	3d
*Pleasant Hill	Jefferson	Union Church	G. Cagle, N. Morris, A. J. Hodges	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	26	39	...	...
Port Gibson	Claiborne	Port Gibson		...	5	...	...	...	...	21	38	59	30	4th
*Rodney	Jefferson	Rodney	D. I. Purser, A. C. Till, L. S. Till	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	27	36	...	...
Spring Hill	Copiah	Hazlehnrst		12	4	..	6	8	3	33	50	83	16	3d
*Salem	Jefferson	Union Church	A. J. Maxey, W. F. Renfrow, B. F. Bankston	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	17	26	...	...
White Oak	Copiah	Utica	A. C. Lewis, John McPhail	...	..	...	4	...	...	28	36	64	20	2d
				70	66	11	69	42	18	678	1037	1713	496	

*Statistics carried forward from last year, and some from the year 1872.

NOTE—As it is very important that we have this year complete statistics, I have thought proper to take statistics for one or two of our churches from the year 1872.—CLERK.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Adopted the First Session, September 18, 1820.

PREAMBLE.

We, the Churches of Jesus Christ, who have been regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith, are convinced of the utility of a combination of churches, and of maintaining a correspondence for a preservation of our union among churches of the same faith and order, we therefore, agree to form ourselves into an Association upon the following principles, viz:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe in ONE TRIUNE GOD—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost—the same in essence—equal in power and glory.

2d We believe the Scriptures of the OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT were given by the inspiration of God, and are the only rule of faith and practice.

3d. We believe in the fall of Adam from his original rectitude—in the imputation of his sins to all his posterity—in the total depravity of human nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4th. We believe that God hath loved his people with an everlasting love; that He chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world; that He calleth them with a holy and effectual calling and being justified alone through the righteousness of Christ, imputed to them, they are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.

5th. We believe there is one Mediator between God and man—the man Christ Jesus, who by the satisfaction he made to law and justice, in becoming an offering for sin, hath, by his most precious blood, redeemed the elect from under the curse of the law, that they might be holy and without blame before Him in love.

6th. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and are evidences of a gracious state; and that all believers are bound to obey every command of God from a principle of Love.

7th. We believe in the resurrection of the Dead, and a general judgment; that the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked, will be everlasting.

GOSPEL ORDER.

1st. We believe that a church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of immersed believers, who have given themselves to the Lord, and to one another by the will of God, and have covenanted to keep up a godly discipline, agreeable to the rules of the gospel.

2d. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church—the only lawgiver, and that the government is with the church.

*Statistics carried forward from last year, and some from the year 1872.
NOTE—As it is very important that we have this year complete statistics, I have thought proper to take statistics for one or two of our churches from the year 1872.—CLERK.

70 66 11 69 42 18 678 1037 1713 496

3d. That Baptism and the Lord's supper are the gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the Church until his second coming.

4th That the immersion of the body in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is the only Scriptural baptism, as taught by Christ and his Apostles.

5th. That none but regularly baptized church members, who live a holy life, have a right to partake of the Lord's supper.

6th. That it is the privilege and duty of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, by submitting themselves as subjects of baptism and as members of the visible church.

7th. That it is the duty of every regularly organized church, to expel from her communion, all disorderly and immoral members, or those who hold doctrines contrary to the Scriptures.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. Those delegates who are regularly chosen by the churches, in our Union shall compose the Association.

2d. The delegates so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with the number in fellowship; those baptized; received by letter; restored; dismissed; excommunicated and dead; since the last Association.

3d. The delegates thus chosen and convened, shall be denominated the "Union Baptist Association."

4th. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be annually chosen by a majority of the members present, who shall hold their officers until their successors are elected.

5th. If new churches desire to be admitted into this Union, they shall petition by letter and delegates. If received, the Moderator shall extend to the delegate the right hand of fellowship. The Association shall always have the power to receive or reject applicants for membership.

6th. No church in this Union shall have a right to more than three delegates, unless she shall exceed one hundred members, then she shall have a right to an additional delegate for every additional fifty members.

7th. Every query sent to the Association, by any church in the Union, shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated; and if there shall be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; provided always, that those be first considered, which affect the Union of the churches.

8th. Every motion made and seconded shall be taken up by the Association, except it be withdrawn by the person who made it.

9th. Only one person shall speak at once; who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator.

10th. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted, except he depart from the subject, break the rules of decorum, or cast reflections upon a brother, in which case he shall be immediately called to order by the Moderator.

11th. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the Moderator.

12th. No brother shall finally depart from the conference without leave of the Association

13th. All reports to this body shall be sent up in writing.

14th. The Moderator shall have the liberty of speaking on any question that may be debated, provided the chair be previously filed, but shall only have the privilege of voting when the Association is equally divided.

15th. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association deems expedient.

16th. We think it actually necessary to have an Association Fund for defraying the expenses of the same; for the raising and supporting of which we think it the duty of each church in the Union to contribute such sums as it may think proper, and send them by their delegates to the Association, and the money thus contributed by the churches, shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, by the Association appointed, who shall be accountable to the Association for all the money by him received, and paid out according to the direction of the same.

17th. The name of no delegate shall appear upon the minutes of this Association, who absents himself before adjournment without leave of the Association.

18th. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the Association rise.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

FRIDAY, August 25.

The Convention was called to order by Bro. A. J. Miller, President.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to meet to-morrow (Saturday) at 9½ A. M.

SATURDAY, August 26.

The Convention was called to order.

On motion, the Convention went into the election of officers, which resulted in the choice of R. H. Purser, President; D. I. Purser, William F. Green, William Sumrall, J. Jasper Green, Vice-Presidents; A. J. Maxey, Secretary and Treasurer.

On motion, a Committee was appointed to arrange the programme, time and place of the next meeting. Elder J. Jasper Green, William Sumrall, W. F. Green, said Committee.

On motion, Elder D. I. Purser was added to the Committee.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Monday morning.

MONDAY EVE, 2½ O'CLOCK.

Elder J. Jasper Green in the Chair at the request of R. H. Purser, who was unwell.

The Report of Committee on Programme was called for; was presented and adopted.

On motion,

Resolved, The proceedings of the Convention be published in connection with the minutes of the Association.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to meet with Rose Hill Sunday School, on the fifth Sabbath and Saturday before, in October, 1876.

A. J. MAXEY,
Secretary.

CONSTITUTION.

I. This organization shall be known as the Sunday School Convention of the "Union Baptist Association."

II. Its motto shall be a Sunday School in every church and destitute neighborhood.

III. The membership of this body shall consist of all recognized ministers, and officers and teachers of Sunday Schools within our bounds, provided they be members of Baptist churches.

IV. The officers of this body shall be a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

V. It shall be the duty of the President to perform the duties usually required by presiding officers.

It shall be the duty of the Vice-Presidents to assist the President in the discharge of his duties, and to preside in his absence.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a proper record of all proceedings of the body, and conduct all necessary correspondence.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys belonging to this Convention, and disburse the same upon the order of the Convention.

The officers of this Convention shall constitute an Executive Committee to arrange and provide for all necessary business.

The officers of this Convention shall be elected annually by a majority of the members present.

PLAN OF WORK.

VI. It shall be the duty of this Convention to encourage, as far as possible, the organization of good Sunday Schools, and to provide for a Sunday School institute to be held in connection with every meeting.

THE TIMES OF MEETING.

VII. This Convention shall meet annually in connection with the meeting of the Union Association, and in the *interim* as often as the exigencies of the case may require.

VIII. This Constitution may be changed or amended at any meeting of the body, by the vote of a majority of the members present.

IX. Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

X. This Convention shall be auxiliary in all its work to the Board of State Missions of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention.

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